

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 EA-12 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02  
ACDA-12 PM-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 /100 W  
-----008464 091807Z /46

P R 091725Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC 9266  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10648

USICA

FOR PGM/X, PGM/DP - WOLCOTT, EU - PERRIN, PGM/TX, GC,  
EA, AF; PARIS - OECD/HOFFMAN; GENEVA PASS SALT;  
VIENNA - FERNANDEZ

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE (ED) WITH SENATOR SPARK  
MATSUNAGA, JUNE 5, 1978 (GE-04, 07)

REF: A. BONN 9177; B. BONN 9692

1. USICA BONN PROGRAM OFFICE AND FRG BUNDESTAG (FEDERAL  
PARLIAMENT) FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CO-SPONSORED  
SUCCESSFUL 70-MINUTE TRANSATLANTIC ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE  
(ED) WITH SENATOR SPARK MATSUNAGA, D. HAWAII, DURING  
WHICH EAST-WEST RELATIONS, CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS OF  
PRESENT STATUS OF DETENTE AND CHANCES FOR SALT AGREE-  
MENT, U.S. POLICY IN ASIA, PARTICULARLY TOWARD CHINA,  
U.S. POLICY IN AFRICA WITH EMPHASIS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA,  
AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ISSUE WERE DISCUSSED. HELD  
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AT HEADQUARTERS OF GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY SOCIETY IN  
BONN, ED WAS CHAIRED BY BUNDESTAG VICE PRESIDENT  
SCHMITT-VOCKENHAUSEN. DR. PING CHEN, SENATOR  
MATSUNAGA'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS  
PRESENT AS RESOURCE PERSON PRIOR TO AND DURING ED.

2. PRIOR TO ED, BUNDESTAG VICE PRESIDENT SCHMITT-

VOCKENHAUSEN AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS VIEWED VTR MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR BONN PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE SENATOR AND PRESENT SOME OF HIS VIEWS.

3. SENATOR MATSUNAGA'S RESPONSES TO MANY OF THE DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES COMPLEX QUESTIONS DEMONSTRATED HIS GRASP OF WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES AND SUPPORTED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. PARTICULARLY WELCOMED WERE HIS REMARKS THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT DECLINING VALUE OF DOLLAR ABROAD. SENATOR ASSURED GERMAN AUDIENCE THAT "CONGRESS WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT IN KEEPING THE DOLLAR VALUE AT ITS PRESENT STATUS AND EVEN IMPROVING ITS VALUE." IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION ON SALT, SENATOR BELIEVES A SALT AGREEMENT WILL BE FAVORABLY REGARDED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THUS SETTING TONE FOR ENTIRE SENATE. SENATOR ALSO INDICATED THAT EUROPE AS A WHOLE WOULD BENEFIT BY SUCH A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT.

4. TAKING PART IN THIS DIALOGUE WERE 16 HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM FOREIGN OFFICE, FORMER BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES, AND HIGH OFFICIALS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THREE MAIN FRG POLITICAL PARTIES. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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SPECIALISTS FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN DIS-

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USICA

CUSSION LED BY CHAIRMAN.

5. DISCUSSION AND VTR INTERVIEW EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED. PARTICIPANTS AT BONN END WERE ABLE TO GAIN BETTER PERSPECTIVE OF U.S. ATTITUDES ON CURRENT MAJOR ISSUES AND SOME OF THE PARLIAMEN- TARY PROBLEMS AND ISSUES WHICH CAUSE TENSIONS BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. GERMAN PARTICIPANTS ALSO FELT THAT THIS WAS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIB- UTE TO ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN U.S. AND FRG ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED VICE PRESIDENT SCHMITT-VOCKENHAUSEN: "WE NEED MORE DIALOGUES OF THIS KIND. IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS MEET REGULARLY. WE, AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, HAVE TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER." FORMER BUNDESTAG VICE PRESIDENT KARL MOMMER: "THE MASS MEDIA OFTEN DISTORT AND EXAGGERATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AM SURE OUR DISCUSSION HAS HELPED TO IMPROVE OUR RELATION- UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIP." AMBASSADOR GEBHARDT VON WALTHER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: "I AM FASCINATED BY THIS MEANS OF INTER- NATIONAL COMMUNICATION. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ARRANGE SUCH EDS IN WASHINGTON. THEY COULD BE VERY USEFUL." ANOTHER PARTICIPANT REMARKED THAT ELECTRONIC DIALOGUES WOULD BE VERY USEFUL WHEN DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON CONCERNING QUESTIONS WHICH ARE POTENTIAL AREAS OF TENSION BETWEEN U.S. AND FRG.

6. TECHNICAL SIDE OF ED WENT THROUGH WITH ONLY ONE HITCH, A ONE-MINUTE BREAKDOWN IN LINE BETWEEN WASHING- TON AND BONN WHICH OCCASIONED ONLY SLIGHT MISAPPREHEN- SIONS BEFORE VOICE LINK WAS RESTORED.

7. POST WISHES TO THANK PGM/DP WOLCOTT AND OTHERS FOR

THEIR EFFORTS WHICH MADE THIS ED A SUCCESS. WE PARTICU-  
LARLY WISH TO THANK SENATOR MATSUNAGA AND HIS SPECIAL  
ASSISTANT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. PING CHEN, FOR  
THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE  
U.S. AND GERMANY.  
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